



Hello Friends,

You all know me as a legislator who puts the needs and concerns of my constituents first and foremost. I have taken a moderate position in the State Legislature, supporting the Central Valley's strong agriculture economy and pro-business philosophy. As such, I have joined many other electeds from around the nation in becoming active in the **Democratic Leadership Council (DLC)**. The DLC is an idea center, catalyst, and national voice for a reform movement that is reshaping American politics by moving it beyond the old left-right debate.

I was fortunate enough to join the **Democratic Leadership Council at their 2007 National Conversation** in Nashville, Tennessee. I had the opportunity to get together with my peers throughout the United States to hear from leading national voices and to discuss the ideas that will shape the country's future.

The National Conversation is a one-of-a-kind forum for governors and other statewide elected officials, legislators, mayors, county executives, council members, and business and civic leaders to come together on a national platform to compare notes and brainstorm innovative strategies for governing in their states and communities.

One of the highlights of my trip was to **introduce Governor Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas** to the crowd of 650 people. Within three years of becoming Governor in 2003, **TIME magazine** named her one of the nation's top five governors, citing her work to cut waste in government and bridge the partisan divide. It was truly an honor to introduce this fantastic leader, and engage so many others in worthy policy discussions.

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### **What's Happening in Sacramento**

**On August 22, the Senate and Assembly passed a \$103 billion budget, and the Governor signed it on August 24.** The Assembly had passed a similar version almost seven weeks earlier. The bi-partisan budget passed reflects many priorities shared by me, and my constituents, throughout the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

The budget signals a **renewed focus on Gang suppression** in our Central Valley communities. Nearly \$10 million has been set aside for local assistance grants for gang prevention activities. Millions more have been allocated to gang violence suppression programs and the necessary law enforcement to reduce gang violence and other gang-related crime across California. One such program will include the formation of a statewide anti-gang coordinator to centralize state efforts to reduce the effects of gangs in California.

The budget provides \$27.7 million to help ensure that the **trial courts are fully staffed and that all judgeships are filled** across California, including vacant seats in the Central Valley. And it provides \$62.4 million to meet statutory requirement requiring the oversight of high risk sex offenders. Further, this budget **protects the Williamson Act** to retain local farmland. This will help California to remain an agricultural leader while ensuring that local farmers can continue business while rural counties remain adequately funded.

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/Enacted/agencies.html>

**I was honored with the California Waterfowl Association's "Grant Kenyon" Award**, presented "to the person that has demonstrated exceptional legislative advocacy for waterfowl, their habitats and hunting heritage." As **co-chair of the Legislative Outdoor Sporting Caucus**, I am committed to preserving our recreational traditions, enjoyed and practiced by so many folks in the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

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### **My Legislative Highlights**

**I introduced legislation, AB 1191, to make it illegal to post images of underage children of any type on Web sites with sexual content or themes.** It is abhorrent that self-described pedophiles are able to post images of small children, along with how they troll for children and other exhibitionist information, without legal repercussions. We must do everything we can to protect our children, our families, and our communities.

While posting pictures of children in sexual situations is a felony, posting pictures taken of children in public of everyday situations, even alongside sexually explicit commentary, is not currently illegal. I intend to fix this discrepancy to protect communities and families from pedophiles posting sexual information referencing innocent children.

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### **Constituents Visit Sacramento**

With tremendous assistance from Brandon Sanders in my office, I am happy to announce that the **Chateau d' Bakersfield, which is the largest adult day health care center in Bakersfield, reopened this week.** The facility had closed due to the cessation of payments from the State. **Sam and Anu Mohan**, administrators of the facility, visited me and my office to alert us of their issue and ask for help. The Mohans have worked hard in recent weeks to remain operational, but given the absence of State funding coupled with difficulties in acquiring approval of payments from the Department of Health Services, were forced to close their doors for nearly three weeks.

The Mohans are to be commended for their sincere efforts in support of the citizens they serve from all over **Kern County**. I am especially pleased with the quality of service they have offered since their beginnings with the center. Please join me in congratulating the management, staff, and patients of Chateau d' Bakersfield, and encourage them to continue to serve so selflessly in support of Kern County's citizenry.

I had an opportunity to meet with **Will Scott, Charles Scott and Charles Hedges – farmers from Fresno County**. They came to Sacramento to discuss air quality issues with members of the Legislature. Specifically, they joined me in compelling my colleagues to remove the politics, and re-insert public health expertise, as we develop solutions to improve our quality of life and preserve our agricultural economy in the Central Valley.

The **Fresno Chamber of Commerce** came by to share their legislative priorities in these final days of session. I met with Chamber member's **Ruth Evans, Lydia Zabrycki, and Chamber President Al Smith** to discuss healthcare, labor, and employment and other issues important to Fresno County.

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### **In the District**

I am pleased to announce that the Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded a loan from the **Serna Farmworker Housing Grant Program** to the Corporation of Better Housing. The loan funds are for use in the **new construction of rental housing at the Descanso Place project in Bakersfield**.

As Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee, **I toured two food processing plants in the Central Valley** with other members of the Assembly and Senate Agriculture Committees, at the invite of the Manufacturers Council of the Central Valley. The tour provided us with an overview of the local food processing industry's value added contributions to the local and regional economy. Items discussed included industry's concerns regarding water, agricultural challenges, labor and other public policies that impact their operation and job creation.

**Up with People comes to Corcoran!** After a week of community participation, and working closely with my staff in Hanford, Up with People will perform a multi-cultural concert and performance that delivers a message of unity and tolerance. A total of 68 cast members from 19 different countries will be represented on the stage. The Up with People show is going to be held on **Saturday, September 1, at John Muir Middle School, at 7 p.m in Corcoran**. Tickets are available at The Corcoran Journal, Radio Shack/Images, the Corcoran Chamber of Commerce office and the Corcoran YMCA. For more information about the concert, **contact Danielle Hastings at (559) 992-3115**.

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### **Meeting Requests**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne**

**Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov)

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### **Internships**

Big thanks to our Sacramento interns this summer. **Will Lyon** is a sophomore at UC San Diego majoring in History. **Maria Castellanos** obtained her degree her degree from California State University, Sacramento in Family & Consumer Sciences.

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov)

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: [Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov)

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: [Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov)

#### **Bakersfield Office:**

601 24th St.,  
Suite A  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Phone: (661) 334-3745  
Fax: (661) 334-3796

#### **Hanford Office:**

321 N. Douty St.,  
Suite B  
Hanford, CA 93230  
Phone: (559) 585-7170  
Fax: (559) 585-7175

#### **Capitol Office:**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
Phone: (916) 319-2030  
Fax: (916) 319-2130

**Email:** [Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov)

**Web Site:** <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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